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346, 350). First, Congress was unfair in the drastic measures taken against the labor laws passed by the South in 1865; the testimony taken in regard to these laws was one-sided, etc. For instance, says Mr. Phelps, no law on the subject had been promulgated in Louisiana at all. It is only fair to reply that though no law against freedmen had been "promulgated" by the Louisiana legislature, several bills of great severity were pending in that body when Congress took up the matter, and were doubtless dropped because of the attitude of Congress. Again, Mr. Phelps, doubtless following Burgess, charges Congress with unconstitutional action in not submitting the Fourteenth Amendment to President Johnson for his signature (p. 350). The advocate of Congress could reply that the first ten amendments did not receive the signature of the President, and that the Supreme Court (3 Dallas, 381) had decided that the negative of the President applies to ordinary legislation and has nothing to do with the proposition or adoption of amendments to the Constitution.

Such faults are only natural in a young writer who treats for the first time so long a period as is embraced in the history of Louisiana. In spite of them the work is worthy of a high place in the series of which it forms a part.

JOHN R. FICKLEN.

Rhode Island: a Study in Separatism. By IRVING BERDINE RICHMAN. [American Commonwealths.] (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company. 1905. Pp. x, 395.)

THIS, the most enjoyable of the books on Rhode Island, is the work of "one possessed of no relationship, ancestral or contemporary, to New England". It will not displace the solid history by Arnold, but the changes of a half-century will give it a place of its own. It is significant that, while the history of Rhode Island has been politico-theological, or at least politico-legal, this latest work is an instructive picture of social life. The author fairly establishes his thesis of separatism as the formative principle of the community. He lays out his periods and classification as follows: Agriculture and Separatism, 1636-1689; Commerce and Co-operation, 1690-1763; Unification and Manufactures, 1764 to the present day. These fixed partitions are too rigid, and the periods are more or less arbitrary. Commerce, as developed in the East for two or three decades after the Revolution, was more important than at any other period. Nor did manufactures get under way until Slater started in 1790. The terms are elaborated considerably. "By Providence there was symbolized individualism both religious and political—a force centrifugal, disjunctive, and even disruptive. By Aquidneck . . . there was symbolized collectivism—a collectivism thoroughly individualized as to religion, but in politics conjunctive and centripetal" (p. 32). Collectivism may be interpreted in that way, but according to Woolsey it "denotes the condition of a community when its affairs, especially its industry, are managed in the collective way". There was

nothing of this latter sort in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. History is hardly elucidated by such forced terms.

The main exigesis is wholly correct. "The age of Roger Williams in Rhode Island was a great age. For the first time in human history State had wholly been dissociated from Church in a commonwealth not utopian but real. For the first time the fundamental idea of modern civilization—that of rights of man as a being responsible primarily to God and not to the community—had been given an impulse powerful and direct" (pp. 60-61). The right personalities are emphasized. Harris, Coddington, and Clarke brought the spiritists down to earth, giving organization and a backbone to the communities, or the state could not have lived.

The Dorr rebellion—an incipient revolution—is well handled. The important constitutional problems there developed are treated fairly. The strong fighting spirit of the Seeker-Quaker state, as in privateering, in the Revolution, and in the Civil War, is very suggestive.

An occasional error occurs, as in half-affirming (p. 6) a thoroughly exploded tradition of "Norse construction" of the Old Stone Mill. More important is the strange lapse "no . . . conscription" (p. 316)—a remarkable error in such thorough investigation. Rhode Island was first to draft; and her conscripts—not substituted—were duly mustered.

James Bryce brought our state under new obligation when he inspired the author to make these studies; and the East may well congratulate the western states thereon.

WILLIAM B. WEEDEN.

The American Nation: A History. Edited by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Volume 6. *Provincial America, 1690-1740.* By EVARTS BOUTELL GREENE, Ph.D., Professor of History in Illinois State University. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers. 1905. Pp. xxi, 356.)

ONE advantage of the present movement toward the writing of general histories of our country is that gaps must be filled in. Mr. Greene's book deals with one of these, perhaps the least-known fifty years between 1600 and the present day, a period which has at the same time repelled by its difficulty and lacked in the picturesque attraction of the years just before and after. Mr. Greene has handled his problem with the grasp of a true historical artisan, and his book is a definite contribution to American history. The chief difficulty arises from the necessity of treating the history of still distinctly different colonies, which, nevertheless, "possessed important elements of unity". Mr. Greene has wisely decided that, within the limits of a single volume, "the most instructive method for the student of this period is to emphasize the general movements" (p. xix). It must, however, be confessed that there is a consequent loss of vitality. To such a book one must bring one's interest, and it is a question whether some concession might not have been made to the general reader by way of